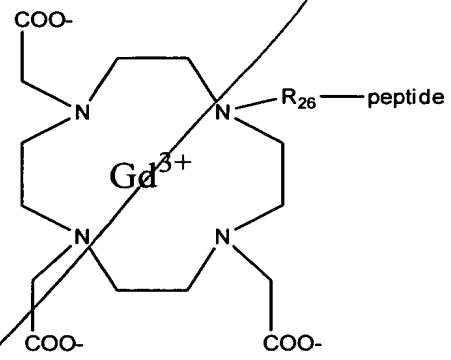




D1
Contd



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wherein R_{26} is a linker.

D2
16. (Thrice Amended) An MRI agent according to claim 12 wherein R_{26} comprises -
((CH₂)CO)-.

D3
E2
22. (Amended) An MRI agent according to claim 12 wherein said target substance is a
protease and said peptide inhibits said protease.

23. (Amended) An MRI agent according to claim 22 wherein said protease is a caspase.

Please add the following new claims:

D4
--24. An MRI agent according to claim 22 wherein said protease is a interleukin 1 beta-
converting enzyme.

25. An MRI agent according to claim 22 wherein said protease is a cysteine protease.

26. An MRI agent according to claim 22 wherein said protease is a serine protease.

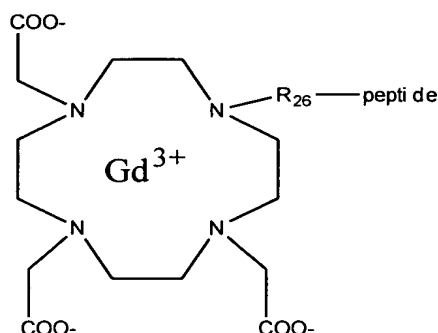
27. An MRI agent according to claim 22 wherein said protease is a calpain.

28. An MRI agent according to claim 22 wherein said protease is a cathepsin.

Sub F1
29. An MRI agent according to claim 22 wherein said protease is a metalloproteinase.

Sub F3
30. A method of simultaneously delivering an activatable MRI agent and acquiring an MRI image comprising:

a) administering an activatable MRI agent to a tissue, cell or patient, said MRI agent having the formula:



wherein R_{26} is a linker; and,

under conditions whereby said peptide interacts with a target substance in said tissue, cell or patient such that the rapid exchange of water in at least one coordination site of said agent is increased, and,

b) acquiring a magnetic resonance image of said cell, tissue or patient.

Sub F1
31. A method according to claim 30 wherein R_{26} comprises $-((CH_2)CO)-$.

Sub F4
32. A method of according to claim 30, said MRI agent having the formula:

